

Message Text

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TAGS: ELAB

SUBJ: VALLE LABOR LEADERS SHARPLY CRITICIZE NEW MINIMUM WAGES
AS INADEQUATE

1. THE NEW MINIMUM WAGES ANNOUNCED BY THE NATIONAL SALARY COUNCIL HAVE TRIGGER SHARP CRITICISM BY VALLE LABOR LEADERS WHO UNANIMOUSLY CALL FOR AT LEAST 50 - 60 PESOS PER DAY WAGE (MAJOR URBAN AREAS) IN VIEW OF THE PRECIPITOUS RISE IN COST OF LIVING. LEAVRS OF THE THREE DEMOCRATIC LABOR UNIONS IN VALLE (FESINUVAL, UTRAVAL AND FESTRALVA, REPRESENTING A CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP OF 180,000) WERE REPORTED BY THE PRESS AS QUOTE PROFOUNDLY DISAPPOINTED END QUOTE IN THE ANNOUNCED 40 PER CENT RAISE IN MINIMUM WAGE. ADMITTING THAT THE RAISE WILL PROVIDE TEMPORARY RELIEF, THE UNION LEADERS CONTEND THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT TO OBTAIN A FURTHER INCREASE NECESSARY FOR A QUOTE JUST AND REALISTIC SALARY END QUOTE.

2. IN A TYPICAL NON SEQUITUR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNIST DENOMINATED FEDETAV, BITTERLY CRITICIZED THE NEW WAGES AS ADDITIONAL PROOF THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY FAVORS LARGE CAPITALISTS IN THAT LARGE INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY THE NEW MINIMUM WAGE AS THEY ARE ALREADY PAYING SALARIES CONSIDERABLY ABOVE THE NEW MINIMUM WAGE LEVELS.

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COMMENT: THE CONSULATE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN FIGURES ON THE PER CENT OF UNION MEMBERSHIP WHOSE SALARIES WILL BE BENEFITED BY THE NEW MINIMUM WAGE, HOWEVER, IT IS SUSPECTED TAHT THE NUMBER IS RELATIVELY SMALL. THE MAJOR BENEFIT OF THE NEW MINIMUM WAGE FALLS UPON WORKERS EMPLOYED BY SMALL STORES, MEDIUM TO SMALL SIZE CONSTRUCTION FIRMS, RESTAURANTS, DRUG-STORES, GROCERY STORES AND SERVICE COMPANIES. UNTIL A MINIMUM WAGE IS ESTABLISHED WHICH DIRECTLY BENEFITS UNION RANK AND FILE, LOCAL UNIONS MAY BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE A VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN FOR A FURTHER RAISE IN NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGS AND WILL BE UNDER INCREASINGLY HEAVY PRESSURE TO RENEGOTIATE PRESENT WAGE CONTRACTS.
KERR

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